

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SPEECH OF MS. DENISE ROLLINS, MISSION DIRECTOR, USAID/BANGLADESH**

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FAMILY PLANNING (DGFP) INTERNET-BASED LOGISTICS INFORMATION SYSTEM AND INTERNET-BASED PROCUREMENT TRACKER**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

Your Excellency, Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Professor Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque; Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Humayun Kabir; Honorable Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, Mr. Ganesh Sarker; Ladies and Gentlemen: As-Salamu Alaikum and Good Evening!

It is a pleasure to gather with you tonight to launch the new Internet-based Logistics Information System and Procurement Tracker. As we are all aware, Bangladesh's large population has a significant impact on all development sectors in the country. With an estimated population of 160 million people, projected to grow to 230-250 million by 2050, Bangladesh will need more schools, more clinics, more roads, more energy, and more housing. This is a demand on resources that is simply not sustainable over the long term.

We know that the average desired fertility rate in Bangladesh is less than two children per family, which is below replacement level, but in reality average families have more than two children. One reason for this is the lack of access to family planning services and products. When a family does not consistently have the family planning products they need, unwanted pregnancies occur.

The United States Government joins the Government of Bangladesh in its desire to provide quality family planning methods and comprehensive information to all Bangladeshis on a consistent basis. For over three decades the United States Government has provided assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to procure family planning commodities, educate the population on family planning, and enhance the efficiency of procurement processes. In addition, the Government of Bangladesh has invested tens of millions of dollars of its own funds to purchase family planning

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commodities. Together, the United States and Bangladesh are working to ensure that these contraceptives reach the men and women who want to use them.

Tonight we will present to you the Internet-based Logistics Management System and the Internet-based Procurement Tracking System. These tools are two examples of how USAID is joining hands with the Bangladesh government to make family planning products and services available wherever and whenever Bangladeshi families want to obtain them. These are digital tools that allow anyone to instantly know current data on commodity availability. For example, if the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) wants to know how many doses of injectable contraceptives or how many packets of contraceptive pills are available in any government hospital or clinic, he simply can check through the Internet-based Logistics Management System. With these systems, any manager from the Directorate General of Family Planning, you Mr. Secretary, or you Mr. Minister, from your office or home computer, can instantly know if the process to buy family planning products is moving on schedule or if there are any delays that can affect future availability. You will also be able to know exactly in which office the delay is originating, and for how long the delay has been occurring. It is all there, in a transparent way, so that you will know if the investments that the Government of Bangladesh makes in family planning are being well managed. The added bonus is that all of this information can easily be accessed at any time over the Internet.

So, tonight, Mr. Minister, it gives me great pleasure to officially deliver to you the Web-based Logistics Management System and the Web-based Procurement Tracking System on behalf of the United States Government.

And now I would like to request a demonstration of these systems. Thank you.

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*As prepared for delivery*

**GR/2011**